

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04

USSS-00 FBIE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /111 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1691

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0313

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4129

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE: MEETING WITH DR. QUEZADA OCT. 4

1. AT 2:15 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON MY 2 COLLEAGUES AND I CALLED ON DR. QUEZADA TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AND TO REQUEST THAT A DOCTOR OF OUR CONFIDENCE BE PERMITTED TO EXAMINE THE VENEZUELAN VICE CONSUL WHO, FROM ALL REPORTS, HAS A CHRONIC DIGESTIVE AILMENT WHICH IS BECOMING SUBSTANTIALLY AGGRAVATED. MY SPANISH COLLEAGUE WHO, DUE TO SENIORITY AND GIFTED ELOQUENCE IS USUALLY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE 3 OF US, RECALLED THAT OUR LAST MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS ON SEPT. 30 DURING WHICH WE HAD LEARNED A GREAT DEAL. SINCE THEN MUCH HAD OCCURRED, MOST SIGNIFICANT OF WHICH WAS THE SCALING DOWN OF THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS, AND WE THOUGHT IT TIMELY FOR ANOTHER REVIEW OF WHERE EVERYBODY STOOD, ESPECIALLY THE GODR REACTION TO THE LAST TERRORIST OFFER. QUEZADA REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE PRESIDENT ON BOTH MATTERS AND LET US KNOW.

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2. AT 9:30 P.M. THIS EVENING, QUEZADA CALLED ME TO SAY THAT HE HAD

CONSULTED WITH THE PRESIDENT WHO SAID HE WOULD FOCUS SOMETIME TOMORROW ON A MEETING WITH US AND THAT WE SHOULD SUBMIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NAME OF A DOCTOR WE SUGGESTED BE SENT TO THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE. AFTER CONSULTING MY SPANISH COLLEAGUE (THE VENEZUELAN COULD NOT BE READILY FOUND), WE AGREED UPON DR. ANGEL CONTRERAS, WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. I SPOKE TO DR. CONTRERAS AND EXPLAINED WHAT WAS INVOLVED. HE READILY AGREED TO DO WHATEVER COMPETENT AUTHORITIES DESIRED, INCLUDING ENTERING THE CONSULATE AND EXAMINING ANY OR ALL INHABITANTS. I THEN INFORMED DR. QUEZADA OF THE FOREGOING AND EMPHASIZED THAT MY VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUE, DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE WELFARE OF HIS VICE CONSUL, HOPED FOR AN EARLY DECISION TOMORROW MORNING. QUEZADA TOOK THE OCCASION TO INFORM ME THAT GENERAL GUZMAN HAD TURNED DOWN, AGAIN, OUR REQUEST THAT TWO MORE GALLONS OF WATER BE PERMITTED TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CONSULATE THIS EVENING. HE THEN SAID THAT GEN. GUZMAN WAS MAKING A PUBLIC STATEMENT OVER THE RADIO DELINEATING THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION RE THE KIDNAPPING.

ACCORDING TO QUEZADA, GUZMAN WAS TO REPEAT THAT WHICH MSGR. POLANCO HAD ALREADY CONVEYED TO THE TERRORISTS AS THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, I.E., THE GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED THE LIVES OF THE CAPTORS AND THEIR PROTECTION AGAINST MALTREATMENT IF THEY RELEASED THE HOSTAGES. IF THE

CAPTORS DOUBTED THE WORD OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE THREE CHIEFS OF MISSION

WHOSE NATIONALS WERE INVOLVED IN TURN GUARANTEE THE GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE. IN ADDITION, QUEZADA SAID, GUZMAN WOULD IN FIRM TONES WARN THE TERRORISTS THAT THEIR FATE DEPENDED UPON THE WELFARE OF THE HOSTAGES.

3. COMMENT. THIS PUBLIC STATEMENT BY AN AUTHORITATIVE GODR OFFICIAL CONSTITUTES THE FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE KIDNAPPING HAD OCCURRED AND DEMANDS MADE. QUITE PROBABLY DOMINICAN PRESS AND TV HAVE BEEN PRESSING HARD FOR SOME GOVERNMENT STATEMENT. THIS, TOGETHER WITH OUR REQUEST TO HEAR THE PRESIDENT ON HIS REACTION TO THE LAST OFFER BY THE TERRORISTS, PROBABLY NUDGED THE GOVERNMENT SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DOUBT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL FEEL ANY STRONG COMPULSION TO SEE US OVER THE WEEKEND.

HURWITCH

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